



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

AUDITOR
Land Department

An Inventory of Its Reports and Correspondence

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. State Auditor. Land Department.
- Series Title:** Reports and correspondence,
- Dates:** 1926-1941.
- Abstract:** Materials pertaining to the management and use of the state's timber and mineral lands, and occasional other land holdings.
- Quantity:** 2.0 cu. ft. (2 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Correspondence, typescript and published reports, statistical compilations, legal documents, memoranda, pamphlets, and related materials pertaining to the management and use of the state's timber and mineral lands. A few files relate to swamp and grass lands, lake property, state parks, and other land holdings.

The files are those of state auditor Stafford King; the few items that predate 1931 are from the files of his predecessor, Ray P. Chase. Most of the files have uniform blue labels, and may once have been part of a larger set.

RELATED MATERIALS

See also the "Forestry" files (undated and 1925-1928) in the papers of Stafford King, cataloged in the manuscripts collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Conservation of natural resources--Minnesota.
Drainage--Minnesota.
Grasslands--Minnesota.
Iron mines and mining--Minnesota.
Iron ore--Minnesota.
Lakes--Minnesota.
Land use--Minnesota.
Mineral lands--Minnesota.
Mines and mineral resources--Minnesota.
Parks--Minnesota.
Public land sales--Minnesota.
Public lands--Minnesota.
Swamps--Minnesota.
Timber--Minnesota.
Trust fund lands--Minnesota.
Water conservation--Minnesota.
Wolves--Minnesota.

Places:

Scenic State Park (Minn.).
Vermilion River (Minn.).

Persons:

Chase, Ray P. (Ray Park), 1880-1948.
King, Stafford, 1893-1970.
Moore, Raymond J.
Wildes, Frank A.

Organizations:

Minnesota. Dept. of Conservation.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota State Auditor: Land Department. Correspondence and reports. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none

Processing Information:

Processed by:

PALS ID No.: 0800002155 RLIN ID No.: MNHV262-A

Condition: Folders in fair condition. Some legal-size items folded to fit letter-size folders. Box 1 unfolded and partially refolded. Many yellow second sheets, with acid migration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
116.F.13.9B	1	<p><i>State Lands: Their Agricultural and Forest Possibilities</i>, by G. M. Conzet, September 1928.</p> <p>Land Utilization Committee, 1932-1936. 1 folder. Correspondence regarding the federal government's Land Acquisition Plan, which proposed to include the purchase of trust fund and other state lands; and U.S. Resettlement Administration "Land Policy Circular" issues for June 1935 – March 1936.</p> <p>Ten Thousand Lakes [-Greater Minnesota] Association, 1931-1932. 1 folder. Annual meeting program (1931) and letter (1932); 1932 annual report.</p> <p>Charles Gilman Memorial, 1931. 2 items. Letter from Ernest C. Oberholtzer, and cover letter.</p> <p>Come-to-Minnesota Club, 1934, 1941. 1 folder. Personal correspondence regarding King's activities as its treasurer.</p> <p>Wolf Bounties, 1937-1938. 1 folder. Reports and related correspondence on bounties paid by various counties, especially Koochiching.</p> <p>Land Sales, 1931-1936. 1 folder and 3 volumes. Correspondence regarding holding of sales of state lands; summary of land appraisals for 1929-1932; and printed lists of state land to be offered for sale.</p> <p>Mineral Lands [Division] Annual Report, 1932. 1 volume. Typescript. By F. A. Wildes, superintendent of mines.</p> <p>Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad [Abandonment], 1932. 1 folder. A few letters, and a list of state lands crossed by the line when built.</p> <p>Vermilion River Development, 1931-1932. 1 folder. Correspondence and prospectus regarding a proposed comprehensive development of the Vermilion River valley as a hydroelectric power and vacation/tourist site, and regarding development of gold mines in the area.</p>

Location	Box	
116.F.13.9B	1	<p>Minnesota Forestry Association, 1931-1937[?]. 1 folder. Mainly a report on the January 1937 meeting.</p> <p>Conservation: Sportsmen's Association, 1931. 1 folder. Mainly minutes of the January 1931 meeting of the Arrowhead Sportsmen's Association.</p> <p>Conservation Department, 1930-1938. 12 folders (0.6 cu. ft.). Correspondence, memoranda, reports, and copies of bills regarding the general administration and activities of the Conservation Department/Commission and of the auditor's office in connection with it, especially with regard to forestry, water conservation, fire prevention, and sale and management of state lands.</p> <p>Included in this file are: "Northern Minnesota Drainage," report by E. V. Willard [ca. October 1931]; memos regarding the state auditor's objections to the transfer of fiscal responsibility for state lands to the newly created Conservation Department (1931-1932); "Outline of a Proposed Water Conservation and Utilization Plan," by conservation commissioner W. T. Cox (October 1932); reports of meetings of department and convention conservation committees (1931, 1936); information on mining permit policies (1936); descriptions of water conservation and lake improvement projects, with requests for Executive Council funding (1936-1937); summary expenditure records of the Conservation Commission for 1931-1937 (1937); "Forestry and Tax Delinquent Lands: Legislation Needed in Minnesota," a report of the Interim Conservation Commission (December 1938); and personnel and salary details of the Conservation Department (1938).</p>

Location	Box	
116.F.13.10F	2	<p>Mineral Land Division: Field (Engineering) Department Annual Reports, 1928-1932. 5 volumes.</p> <p>Reports of Ray J. Moore, chief engineer. Each report contains a summary of the year's activity in the management of the state's mines and mineral lands; narrative reports on the operation and production of each mine, accompanied by charts, tables, cross-sections, and photographs; and reports on other aspects of the duties and administration of the engineering department. Reports are also labeled "Department of Mines."</p>

Location	Box	
116.F.13.10F	2	<p>Mineral Lands Information, 1926-1930. 1 folder. Printed pamphlets on state-owned land and mineral resources; notes regarding the state mines office; schedule of iron mining royalties (1926).</p> <p>Mineral Lands: Research, 1937. 1 folder. Correspondence, memoranda, and reports regarding the Mineral Lands Division's interest in undertaking field research in low grade iron ores.</p> <p>Mineral Rights: Larsen Case, 1931-1934. 1 folder. Correspondence regarding disputed ownership of mineral rights on land in Scenic State Park, Itasca County.</p> <p>Timber Department, 1931-1933. 1 folder. Inventory of furniture, equipment, supplies, and records in the state timber office (January 1933); correspondence regarding timber trespass (unauthorized logging), dead and down timber, reforestation, sale of timber on state land, and timber scaling and appraisal; and historical and summary information on the duties and activities of the timber department. R. A. Hunt, superintendent of timber.</p> <p><i>The Reaction of Swamp Forests to Drainage in Northern Minnesota</i>, by James L. Averell and Paul C. McGrew, February 1929. Pamphlet.</p> <p><i>Timber Growing and Logging Practice in the Lake States</i>, by Raphael Zon, February 1928. (USDA Bulletin 1496).</p> <p>State Lands [Correspondence], 1931-1936. 1 folder. Miscellaneous correspondence regarding the definition, identification, ownership, sale, payment for, and tax delinquency status of state lands. Includes charts (1931) summarizing the acreage and general classification of state lands examined during 1929-1930. After 1932, many of the auditor's replies refer the enquirer to the Conservation Department.</p> <p>Lands and Minerals [Correspondence], 1931-1933. 2 folders. Correspondence between Stafford King and superintendent of state mines F. A. Wildes. Includes a report on ore tests and ore stocking; monthly reports on mine operations and other activities of the mineral lands section; correspondence regarding the personnel and administration of the mineral lands division offices; correspondence and memos concerning the administration of mineral and other leases; reports and background/historical data on iron ores, mineral lands, and other surface leases; and an inventory of all furniture and equipment in the mineral lands St. Paul and Hibbing offices (January 1933).</p>

Location	Box	
116.F.13.10F	2	<p>Lands and Minerals: Reports, 1930-1931. 1 folder. Annual reports and tabulations of mineral leases and iron ore production, hay and farm leases, lake leases, and general management of state lands.</p> <p>Lands and Minerals: Reports, 1930-1934. 1 folder. Miscellaneous pamphlets on minerals and mining; valuation of iron ore properties and taxes, St. Louis County, 1931-1933; research report on Hill-Annex Mine Cretaceous Ore, February 1933.</p> <p>“Original Report of Joint Committee on Mountain Iron Investigation rec’d 4-6-1897.” Typed copy, made in 1931. 2 folders. Report of a joint committee of the Minnesota state legislature, appointed to investigate the state’s right to St. Louis County lands known as “Mountain Iron Mine Property.” Includes copies of testimony, depositions, and correspondence</p> <p>U.S. Committee on the Conservation and Administration of the Public Domain. <i>Report</i>, January 1931. 1 volume. A summary report on the administration both of the federal public lands and of lands granted to the states.</p> <p>Land Commission: Land Suit, 1932-1933. 1 folder. Correspondence, memoranda, and legal papers regarding a suit to test the constitutionality of laws relating to state swamp lands.</p>